

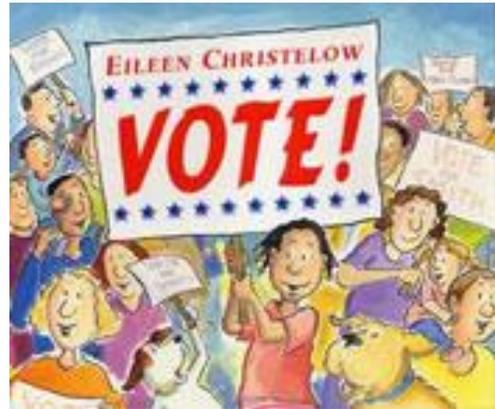
Vote! by Eileen Christelow

Book Summary:

Using a town's mayoral election as a model, this lively, information-packed book covers all aspects of the voting process, from campaigning and debating to registering and volunteering, all the way to the voting booth. There's even a recount! A timeline of the history of voting in the United States, a glossary of words associated with voting, a discussion of American political parties, and a list of Internet resources are included.

Social Studies Topics:

- voting
- American political parties
- elections
- political campaigns
- symbols
- government
- local/national issues



Learning Invitations:

1. **Social Studies Invitation** -- Kids Can't Vote
2. **Social Studies Invitation** -- Political Parties
3. **Literacy Invitation** -- Write a Letter
4. **Art Invitation** -- Design a Poster

Teacher Notes:

This book would be a great start to a unit on government in a 2nd-4th grade classroom. These activities could be easily altered to better suit whichever grade you are teaching. I would first start by asking the students what they know about voting and then read the book to see what they got correct. After reading the story aloud,, give students plenty of time to carry out each of the invitations. Each invitation is designed for students to complete independently or in small groups. Each invitation could be easily put in a file folder or something where it can easily be pulled out for use year after year. Laminating for reuse would be a great idea. Here is what materials students will need to complete each invitation:

Kids Can't Vote -- computer/tablet for Internet access, worksheet to record their answers

Political Parties -- books with information on political parties, graphic organizer to record their findings, you could also print info from websites, like <http://www.politicalpartiesforkids.com/>, for students to use, political party coloring pages, colored pencils/crayons

Write a Letter -- paper, writing utensils, knowledge of issues of importance, copy of directions for writing the letter, information on different issues (websites below)

Design a Poster/Button -- large paper/circle "buttons", information on political parties symbols/campaign information, colored pencils, markers, crayons etc.for decorating

Kids Can't Vote

1. Use the tablet/computer to find out how someone 18 and older would register to vote.
2. List the steps on the worksheet as you would explain them to your parents, guardians, or an older friend.
3. Read the short dialogue on the worksheet and fill in the blanks with what you would say.
4. If you finish early, work on either the Word Search/Word Scramble *alone* until the rest of the class finishes.

Political Parties

1. Look through the information I have given you on the four different political parties and write each name on top of a different column on the graphic organizer.
2. In each column, try to gather as much information as you can from each party.
3. Don't forget things like their symbol, colors, or motto.
4. When you fill all four boxes, based on the information you have collected, pick one of the four parties you think you would most likely be a part of. *Remember this is just for fun, you don't really have to join this party! You might even change your mind as you get older or decide to not join a party at all.
5. If you finish early, choose one of the coloring pages to work on.

Write a Letter

1. Look at the websites and other information I've provided and pick ONE issue you would like to write about. You can write a letter to our President, our Mayor, or the class.
2. Find as much information you can on your issue and begin to write your letter.
3. Don't forget to include things like WHY you think this issue is important and WHAT you think we, or the government should do about it.
4. Make sure you address the letter to who you are sending it to.
5. If you finish early, work on either the Word Search/Word Scramble *alone* until the rest of the class finishes.

Design a Poster

1. In this activity, you will be designing a poster for one of the candidates for mayor from the book *Vote!* (either Chris Smith ***OR*** Bill Brown).
2. Your poster should be colorful and attract attention to anyone who sees it.
3. Your poster should also include things like the candidate's name, what office they are running for (in this case both are running for Mayor), and if you want, you can add a catchy slogan the candidate might use to get people to recognize them.
4. If you finish early, work on either the Word Search/Word Scramble *alone* until the rest of the class finishes.

Resources

All of these resources can be printed and photocopied to ensure your students don't end up on inappropriate/controversial websites, or to help guide them to the correct information.

Literacy Invitation #1

<http://registertovote.org/>

rockthevote.com

youngvoter.org/vote

Literacy Invitation #2

<http://www.politicalpartiesforkids.com/>

<http://www.gp.org/>

<http://www.democrats.org/>

www.teapartypatriots.org

www.americansforprosperity.org

www.freedomworks.org

www.gop.com

Literacy Invitation #3

<http://www.master-of-education.org/americas-youth/>

<http://www.kidsglobal.net/the-issues/>

<http://www.timeforkids.com/news>

Literacy Invitation #4

*see above from invitation 2

Make your own Word Search/Word Scramble/others:

worksheets.theteacherscorner.net